Peaches for all

By SHIRLEY W. WALTON
Extension agent
Peaches

A great many varieties of peaches are grown and in abundance in Virginia this year. These varieties fall into two general types: freestone (flesh readily separates from the pit) and clingstone (flesh clings tightly to the pit).

Select peaches which are fairly firm becoming a trifle soft. The skin color between the red areas should be yellow or creamy.

Avoid very firm or hard peaches with a distinctly green ground color as they are immature and probably will not ripen satisfactorily. Also avoid overripe peaches and those with large bruises or signs of decay. Decay starts as a pale tan spot which expands in a circle.

A bushel of peaches weighs about 48 pounds and will yield about 18 quarts of canned or frozen peaches.

Canning peaches

Wash peaches and remove skins. Dipping each peach in boiling water, then in cold water makes pealing easier. Cut peaches in halves; remove pits. Slice if desired. To prevent fruit from darkening, use citric or ascorbic acid. Follow package directions regarding use. An older but less effective method of preventing darkening is to drop peach halves or slices into water containing 2 tablespoons each of salt and vinegar per gallon of water. The peaches treated in this way must be drained before packing.

Use a thin, medium, or heavy sirup to suit the sweetness of the fruit and family perference. A thin sirup (30-percent) is made with 2 cups sugar and 4 cups water or juice. Use 3 cups of sugar for a medium sirup (40-percent) and 4 3/4 cups sugar for a heavy sirup (50-percent). Sugar improves the flavor and texture of canned peaches but can be omitted.

Raw Pack - Pack raw peaches in jars. Cover with boiling sirup, leaving 1/2-inch headspace. Remove air bubbles by running spatula or knife between jar and food. Adjust jar lids.

Process in boiling water bath canner (212 degrees F.).

Pint jars——25 minutes
Quart jars——30 minutes

Hot Pack - Heat peaches in syrup. Pack hot peaches in jars. Cover with boiling syrup, leaving 1/2-inch headspace. Remove air bubbles by running spatula or knife between jar and food. Adjust jar lids.

Process in boiling water bath canner (212 degrees F.).

Pint jars——20 minutes
Quart jars——25 minutes

A boiling water bath is where jars of food are placed on a rack in a canner or kettle filled with hot water. The water level should be 1 inch above the tops of the jars.

Freezing Peaches

Wash peaches and remove skins and pits. It is better not to use a boiling water dip when peeling peaches to be frozen. Slice if desired.

Syrup pack. Drop peaches into cold syrup to which citric or ascorbic acid has been added to prevent darkening of peaches. Pack peaches into containers. Add syrup to cover. Place a piece of crumpled waxed paper on top of the peaches to hold them under the syrup. Leave 1/2 to 1 1/2-inch headspace – the smaller amount for wide topped pint containers; the larger amount for narrow topped quart containers. Seal. Freeze, store at 0 degrees F. or below. Use a syrup to suit the sweetness of the fruit and family preference. Allow 1/2 to 2/3 cup syrup for each package of peaches depending on size of container. Refer to syrup recipe for canning.

Sugar pack. Add 2/3 cup sugar and citric or ascorbic acid dissolved in cold water to each quart of prepared fruit. Mix well. Pack into containers leaving headspace as in syrup pack. Seal. Freeze, store at 0 degrees F. or below.

Unsweetened pack. Pack peaches into containers and cover with cold water containing ascorbic or citric acid. Leave headspace as in syrup pack. Seal. Freeze, store at 0 degrees F. or below.

If you have a homemaking question or problem, you may call 352-8244 or write P. O. Box 488, Appomattox, VA 24822. Have a good week!

Peach Jam

Peaches do not have enough pectin or acid for jelly and jam making. Pectin and acid may be added as in the recipes which follow or peaches may be combined with other fruits which have more pectin and acid.

Peach Jam with liquid pectin
Yield: 4 pints

4-1/4 cups crushed peaches (about 3 1/½ pounds of fresh peaches)
1/4 cup lemon juice
7 cups sugar
1/2 bottle liquid pectin

Select fully ripe peaches. Wash, peel and remove pits. Crush peaches and measure into a large kettle. Add lemon juice and sugar and stir well. Place on high heat and, stirring constantly, bring quickly to a full rolling boil. Boil hard for 1 minute, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat. Skim off foam. Pour hot jam into hot sterile jars leaving 14-inch headspace. Wipe jar rims clean, place metal lids on jars, screw metal bands down firmly, and stand jars upright to cool.

Peach Jam with powdered pectin – Yield 9 pints

3-3/4 cups crushed peaches (about 3 pounds of fresh peaches)
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 package powdered pectin
5 cups sugar

Select fully ripe peaches. Wash, peel and remove pits. Crush peaches and measure into a large kettle. Add the lemon juice and pectin and stir well. Place on high heat and, stirring constantly, bring quickly to a rolling boil.

Add the sugar, continue stirring, and bring again to a full rolling boil. Boil hard for 1 minute, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat. Skim off foam. Pour hot jam into hot sterile jars leaving 14-inch headspace. Wipe jar rims clean, place metal lids on jars, screw metal bands down firmly, and stand jars upright to cool.

Today completes a week long promotion of farm safety. The theme "Personal Protection--a Defense Against Injury," is appropriate as more and more seasonal farm laborers enter the farm work force without the benefit of a farm background.

Employees and farm managers need to take time to explain safety precautions. This is a time when farm managers need to take a look at their liability coverage and be familiar with coverage provisions.

* * *

It's time to get fall gardens planted. Better plan to use space that is accessable to water. Different vegetables have varying moisture requirements for germination. Here are some of the seed/moisture requirements.

Requires very moist soil-Beets and Lettuce. **Fairly Good Moist Soil**-Lima Beans and Peas. **Moderate Moist Soil**-Snaps, Carrot, Cucumber, Onion, Spinach, and Tomato. **Low Moisture Requirements**-Turnip, Squash, Watermelon, Radish, Cabbage, Corn, Muskmelon, and Pepper.

Nitrate cited as problem

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

Naturally there is concern about the nitrate level in corn silage and possibly other crops. We can assist you in having these forages checked for nitrate level. The test will require about a quart of chopped forage. Put it in a plastic bag (Bread bag) and bring to our office.

* * *

There are some problems associated with poor growth (not drought related) in some corn plantings. It may be useful in diagnosing the problem to take a soil sample from a normal and another from the problem area. Also, a leaf sample (20-30 leaves) from the two areas.

These are useful tools at your disposal for helping determine the cause.

* * *

If you plan to consign cattle to the Lynchburg special feeder sales-don't overlook the dates for vaccination. Have you ordered your vaccination products yet?

* * *

A research project on bees and wasps that sting or become a nusiance about the home is being continued this year at Virginia Tech.

They need some specimen to further the study. If these insects are problems around your home and you are able to obtain some specimen, please leave them at our office.

* * *

This fall a new undergraduate degree program at Virginia Tech will be offered in Intergrated Pest Management. This is a new major thrust, in pest control and opens new opportunities to the student interested in an agricultural career.

* * *

Today completes a week long promotion of farm safety. The theme "Personal Protection--a Defense Against Injury," is appropri-

The South 40

Good news for homemakers

minute, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat and stir in pectin. Skim off foam. Pour hot jam into hot sterile jars leaving 1/4-inch headspace. Wipe jar rims clean, place metal lids on jars, screw metal bands down firmly, and stand jars upright to cool.

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Times-Virginian
Neighborhood Notes

Rocks news

By CASSIE BALDWIN

A much needed rain came last week. Very thankful for it.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Brown and four girls of Alexis, Ill. spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Webber and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Elder of Texas who spent a few days here last week with his mother, Mrs. Ollie Elder and sister Margaret Payne of Pamplin left early Thursday for Texas.

A very large crowd attended the funeral of Mr. Edgar Baldwin at Piney Ridge Church on Thursday afternoon. Sympathy is extended to the family.

The Young Hearts Club had their picnic at Old Rocks on Thursday morning. Nice crowd out and a lovely lunch.

A small crowd out for the graveside service for Miss Nannie Webb at Hollywood Church on Tuesday afternoon. Rev. Winfred Elder conducted the service. Sympathy is extended her relatives and friends.

The Baptist Women and BYW's will serve lunch at the Baptist Center in Lynchburg on Wednesday. They are having V.B.S. this week.

Mrs. Erna Roach will enter a hospital in Richmond Sunday where she will have surgery Monday. May she have a speedy recovery.

If you desire a copy of the church directory that is an extra copy for a member or friend, see the Pastor of Louise Raoch because they can't be ordered at a later date.

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Ranson were called to Richmond Saturday night because of the critical illness of Florence's sister-in-law, Mrs. Connie Marks.

Rev. A. M. Taylor performed the Addington and Duncan wedding at Timberlake Church on Saturday afternoon in Lynchburg.

A number attended the funeral of Edward Thornton in Farmville on last Sunday afternoon. He once lived in Pamplin and was a class member of the 1922 class at Pamplin High School. Sympathy is extended his wife who lives in Crewe.

The Rocks Extension Homemakers Club family picnic will be held with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Richardson on August 9 at 6:30 p.m. Bring a covered dish.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Almond and children were visiting former's brother, Harry Almond at a nursing home at Keysville on Sunday afternoon.

Glad to have Mr. and Mrs. Barry Elder and Adrian at church on Sunday as well a many other visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Terry "are all smiles". It's a girl, born at Virginia Baptist Hospital on July 27.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Hamlett was rushed to the emergency room at the hospital to get a needle out of her foot that she stepped on.

A number of 4-H camp members and others left Friday afternoon for Holiday Lake returning Saturday afternoon. They all reported a fine time.

A number from here attended the revival at Hollywood Church on Tuesday and Thursday night.

Rev. Winfred Elder was called to Schyler on Saturday to conduct a funeral there.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Goins, are "all smiles". It's a boy, 8 lbs. and 9 ozs. Born at Virginia Baptist Hospital on July 27.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewing Joiner of Herndon, Ky. arrived Friday night at Travelers to visit relatives and friends here.

Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Elder took the refugee here to Richmond Sunday afternoon to a worship service there.

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Ranson and family of Texas spent a few days here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie S. Ranson.

Quite a few gathered in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie S. Ranson on Thursday night to see William and Sue and family before leaving on Friday for Texas.

A speedy recovery is wished Mrs. Margaret Marshall who is not feeling very well.

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Beckham news

July 21- Mr. Gibbs Martin returned home Friday from Lynchburg General Hospital where he had been undergoing treatment for several days.

Mrs. Michael Poss of McGregor, Texas is recovering from heart surgery. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Drinkard.

Mrs. Charles Martin was dinner guest Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Drinkard, Donald Lee and Miss Eunice Martin. Miss Eunice Martin is spending this week with Mrs. Martin in Lynchburg.

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Martin visited Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs Martin Friday night.

Charlotte Moore visited Mrs. H. C. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Schmutz and family last week. Gracie Schmutz accompanied her home for a few days visit.

Mrs. S. G. Martin and Melanie Morris visited Mrs. Lillian Wenning Friday.

Rev. and Mrs. Ronnie Morris of North Garden spent Friday night and Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morris, Melanie and Mrs. S. G. Martin. Visiting in this home Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Lee Meador, Mrs. H. C. Moore, Mrs. Tom Schmultz, Jennifer and Edward, Mrs. Carl Martin and Miss Jacqueline Cobbs and Tracey.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Moore, Jr. of Richmond spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Drinkard, Donald Lee and Miss Eunice Martin.

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